

Serial No. 09/982,035
Response dated October 1, 2003
Reply to Office Action of 7/01/03

Docket No. 5000-4963

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 25-34, and 41-47 are pending in this application. Claims 19-24 and 35-40 have been withdrawn from consideration. New claims 42-47 have been added. Claims 1, 10, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25, 28, 30 and 35 have been amended. Applicants submit no new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendment and following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indication that claim 41 is in condition for allowance. See Office Action at p. 10.

Specification Objection

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that the title is objected to because it not descriptive. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the title to be indicative of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the objection has been overcome.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 18 and 30, due to certain informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 18 to correct the typographical error and deleted the term "second" from "second driving device" in claim 30, per the Examiner's suggestion. Therefore, Applicants submit that the objections have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. Claims 1-18 and 25-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Svensson, et al. (US Patent No. 4,870,921). Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 25, as well as the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by the Svensson patent, in view of the following remarks.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

a supporting device movably supporting the processing device, wherein the supporting device is movable during the processing operation relative to and along the portion of the automobile body being processed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Svensson patent does not teach or suggest a supporting device that is movable during the processing operation relative to and along the processed portion of an automobile, as recited in independent claims 1 and 25.

Svensson, et al. discloses an apparatus for processing a workpiece, such as an automobile body that includes a processing device and a support device. However, the support device in Svensson is not movable relative to and along the portion of the automobile body being processed, as recited in independent claims 1 and 25.

Moreover, during the spraying operation, the nozzles of Svensson do not move relative to the car body. The nozzles 29, as well as the support devices 18 and the related structures, are moved only for positioning the nozzles 29 relative to the car body before the spraying operation is started (See, Col. 4, lines 19-29).

In contrast to the Svensson patent, amended independent claims 1 and 25, recite, *inter alia*, “a supporting device movably supporting the processing device, wherein the supporting device is movable during the processing operation relative to and along the portion of the automobile body being processed.” Accordingly, the Svensson patent, which teaches a supporting device that does not move relative to and along the processed workpiece, does not anticipate a supporting device that is movable during the processing operation relative to and along the processed automobile body portion, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 25.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended independent claims 1 and 25 are not anticipated by Svensson, et al. and are patentably distinct from the cited reference. Similarly, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that claims 2-18, 25-34, and new claims 42-47, which are directly or indirectly dependent on independent claims 1 and 25, are also patentably distinct from the Svensson. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

2. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable Svensson, as applied above to claims 1-17 and 25-34, in further view of Hynes, et al. (US Patent No. 6,447,847).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is patentably distinct from the cited references. Specifically, claim 18 is indirectly dependent from independent claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons detailed above regarding amended independent claim 1 and

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the Svensson patent, Applicants submit that dependent claim 18 is also patentably distinct from the cited references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

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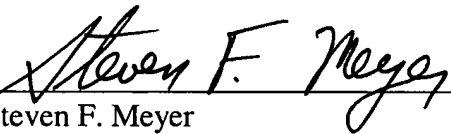
CONCLUSION

It is now believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In view of these remarks, an early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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